



FOR THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY OF RIVERS ALLIANCE OF CONNECTICUT
March 18, 2019

RB 1061. AAC THE RESTORATION OF FUNDS TO THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACCOUNT
RB 7348 AAC BONDING AUTHORIZATIONS FOR CLEAN WATER FUND PROJECTS

Support/Support

To: Chairmen Sen. Christine Cohen and Rep. Mike Demicco,
And Honorable Members of the Committee:

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut is a statewide, non-profit coalition of river organizations, individuals, and businesses formed to protect Connecticut's waters by promoting sound water policies, uniting and strengthening the state's many river groups, and providing education on water stewardship.

We are very aware that money doesn't grow on trees or anywhere else nearby. But the CIA Account is highly cost-effective and carefully crafted to fund projects that benefit all communities. It's a smooth-running program that has supported important and worthwhile good works in all parts of the state. It's a dedicated fund that provides essential support for essential resources. Please restore this fund to its earned level. Approve Bill 1061.

The importance of bonding for Clean Water Projects is described in the excellent testimony of The Nature Conservancy and Connecticut Fund for the Environment/Save the Sound. We can add to their testimony, our own direct experience with wastewater-treatment inadequacies and breakdowns in receiving rivers. Millions of gallons of untreated or partly treated sewage are pouring into our rivers and into the Sound each year. Over the past 20 years, requests for this funding have been modest, and certainly not excessive. We should stay at that level in order to send clean water down to the Sound to support, for example, our important shellfisheries. They need clean water, and they should have it. Approve Bill 7348. Keep up the funding for Clean Water projects. They are good for the environment and good for the Connecticut economy.

Thanks for your concern and hard work.

Margaret Miner, Executive Director.

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